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ABSTRACT

A balanced state system of education and qualification improvement of library personnel within all the republics of the USSR has been created, which consists of education of qualified librarians at university level from four to five years, with advanced study at leading libraries, and the training of medium level personnel in 12- to 18-month curriculums at the postsecondary level. Twenty-eight schools for librarians and 130 for library technicians use a combination of day, night, and correspondence courses to produce graduates to meet the cultural and technological demands of the Russian nation. Postgraduate and doctoral programs of three to four years duration are offered in programs of library science, information science, special bibliography, general bibliography, and others requiring research work and the authorship of theses and dissertations. The culmination of the doctoral programs is the granting of the degrees of Doctor of Pedagogical Science in the field of bibliography and library science and Doctor of Philological Sciences in bibliography. (RAA)

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SOME ASPECTS OF TRAINING LIBRARY AND RESEARCH PERSONNEL IN THE USSR

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Questions of improvement of training of specialists for all branches of economics, science and culture, including libraries and higher educational institutions of the country, acquire particular importance at the stage of developed communism in the USSR. Now, when the role of books and reading in the life of Soviet people, the raising of their cultural and technological level and the satisfaction of their professional demands, connected with the realization of important economic tasks, has immeasurable grown, libraries and bibliographic institutions experience an urgent need in the regular replenishment of their staffs, in the creation of a system of training of highly qualified personnel. This is why in recent years attention is focused on the development of networks of secondary and higher educational institutions which train specialists in librarianship and bibliography.

A balanced state system of education and qualification improvement of library personnel has been created in the Soviet Union. It consists of the following main units:

1/ education of highly qualified library personnel at library faculties (departments) of institutions of higher learning (universities, pedagogical institutes and institutes of culture) and at advanced library courses (based on higher education in a certain field), which function within the leading libraries of the country: the State Lenen Library, the State Public Library for Science and Technology of the USSR, etc.

2/ training of medium-level library personnel in library schools and library departments of cultural and educational schools. This training is carried on by library faculties through programmes offered by qualification improvement facilities, courses, seminars and schools of progressive professional experience.

Today every Union Republic of the USSR boasts of secondary and higher educational institutions which graduate librarians and bibliographers. There are 28 higher educational institutions and 130 secondary library schools in the country. Library departments function in five universities in the Azerbaijan SSR (Baku), Latvian SSR (Riga), Lithuanian SSR (Vilnius), Moldavian SSR (Kishinev) and Turkmen SSR (Ashkhabad). The following five pedagogical institutes are: the the Arminian SSR (Yerevan), Georgian SSR (Tbilisi),

Kazakh SSR (Alma-Ata), Kirghiz SSR (Frunze) and Estonian SSR (Tallinn) also have library departments. Similar curricula are offered by the Institute of Arts in the Tajik SSR (Byushambe) and 17 institutes of culture: in the Byelorussian SSR (Minsk), Kazakh SSR (Chikment), RSFSR (Barnaul, Kazan, Kemerovo, Krasnodar, Kuibyshev, Leningrad, Moscow, Perm, Ulhan-Ude, Khabarovsk and Cheliabinsk), Ukrainian SSR (Kiev, Rovno, Kharkov) and Uzbek SSR (Tashkent). The Kiev Institute of Culture has a branch in Nimolaev and the Moscow Institute in Orel and Tambov.

These institutions have day, evening and correspondence departments. Two universities (Azerbaijan and Vilnius) offer a five-year curriculum while the rest of the institutes have four-year curriculum... Secondary library schools offer a one-year or 18 months curricula to high school graduates while advanced library schools intended for prople with university degrees in fields other than librarianship have a one-year to two-year training programmes.

In keeping with the Order of the USSR Ministry of Culture(1976) the Moscow State Institute of Culture (MSIC) operates as the All-Union scientific and methodological centre for education in library and bibliographic sciences with the following functions:

a) Organization of research and experimental work in the field of long-range library education, study of the efficiency of training and use of library personnel, prognostication of the demand in library specialists.

b) Scientific and methodological work directed towards the organization and improvement of the learning process, methods of teaching and organization of practical and in-service training, introduction of new training methods, technical means and programming; summarization and propaganda of progressive methods of library education

c) Collection and dissemination of information on questions of library education both in the USSR and abroad.

The research department of MSIC has prepared a long-term plan of research and methodological activities in the field of library education for 1981-1985. The work connected with thesupport of educational institutions with curricula, manuals and methodological documentation has been expanded. The department plans to publish thematic collections of articles dealing withprogressive methods of teaching on a regular basis. The professors and post-graduate students conduct dissertational research of problems of development of library education in the USSR and

abroad (Great Britain, FGR, USA, etc.), and take part in international seminars and conferences concerned with library training

Today particular attention is paid to the development of higher library education, foremostly through the expansion of the network of institutes of culture. More students than ever are now admitted to day departments. It is planned to reissue some text-books and manuals dealing with all disciplines in the field of librarianship, bibliography and information. The material base of higher library education will be further consolidated and the building of educational institutions and laboratories, equipped with modern technique, is envisaged. Many efforts are directed towards the improvement of the curriculum of discipline No.2113 - Librarianship and Bibliography, which is taught in all universities of the country. This plan is oriented towards the education of specialists with sound knowledge of subjects in the field of librarianship, bibliography and information science, who would be able to work in any library, regardless of its type or category. The new draft of the curriculum envisages the further improvement of general theoretic and professional education of specialists, their specialization in different branches of knowledge and areas of librarianship and activization of the students' individual work. The role of course and diploma works of the students also appreciably increases. The themes of these works are usually connected with the study and generalization of current problems of library development, particularly in conditions of centralized library activity. All this will make it possible to strengthen the ties of educational institutions with practice, react operatively to the needs and demands of libra-

ries and take into account advanced professional experience .

In recent years the State Interdepartmental Library Commi
tee attached to the USSR Ministry of Culture concentrates its efforts on problems of qualitative improvement of education of librarians and bibliographers and the organization of their training in secondary and higher educational institutions. The draft of the new library law of the USSR, which is being drawn up under its guidance, envisages the further development of the state system of education in the field of librarianship and bibliography and the training of research personnel and teachers of library science.

The education of such specialists, the demand for which incessantly grows in connection with the extension of the network of library faculties and research divisions of large libraries, has gained scope. The training of personnel for library research centres and institutes of higher learning is achieved through post=graduate and doctoral programmes. The programme for the future candidate of sciences (in the field of Bibliography and Librarianship) is offered by post=graduate courses functioning at the Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev Institutes of Culture and the All=Union Book Chamber. The submission of dissertations in adjacent subjects, Scientific and Technical Information and Bibliology, is also envisaged. Special committees, which administer the defense of Candidate theses on such subjects as Bibliography and Library Science and Bibliology operate at the Moscow Institute of Culture and the State Lenin Library and degrees of Candidate of pedagogical, technical or philological sciences are granted by it.

As of September 1, 1980 over 200 individuals were taking the post=graduate course, half of them at the Moscow Institute of Culture. The library faculty of the Institute annually admits 30 post=graduates who are in 1980 distributed among the departments in the following way: library science department - 8 persons, collections and catalogues department - 4, general bibliography - 6, special bibliography - 5, children's literature and library work with children - 3, information science - 2 and bibliology - 2. The curriculum of the post=graduate course covers three years for those who study without discontinuing work and four years for those who have not dropped work, i.e. correspondence students.

Apart from this, in accordance with the "Regulations concerning competitors for degrees, working on theses outside post=graduate courses", groups of competitors, who independently work on their dissertations on bibliography and library science, have been created at the Moscow and Leningrad Institutes of Culture, the State Lenin Library, the Saltykov=Shchedrin State Public Library, etc. Their number exceeds 150. The competitors are attached to special departments or research divisions of libraries, they take candidate examinations and prepare candidate dissertations under the guidance of leading specialists without discontinuing work. These persons are provided with paid leave up to three months.

Data collected by the Information Centre on Problems of Culture and Art attached to the State Lenin Library, concerning 310 candidate dissertations manifest that problems of library

science are studied most intensively - 197 dissertations, problems of bibliography and bibliology 80 and 33 respectively. Special attention is paid to the study of problems of readers' service, popularization of literature and guidance of reading - 62 dissertations; library economics, organization and management - 27; information, reference and bibliographic work - 26; library catalogues and information retrieval systems - 21; history and contemporary state of librarianship in the Union and Autonomous republics - 20.

Consideration is given to the actualization of the themes of dissertations, the examination of vital questions of library development, which have found reflection in the programme of the main trends of development of librarianship and bibliography for the next 10-20 years. Thus in accordance with the "Recommendatory list of long-range problems and themes for post-graduate research in higher educational institutions in the field of culture and art" (Moscow, 1979, p.3-19), prepared by the Department of educational institutions of the RSFSR Ministry of Culture, in the next 5-10 years graduate work in these institutions will be concentrated on methodological and theoretic problems of library science, bibliography and informatics (40 themes), library and bibliographic activities in the field of communistic education of working-people in support of scientific, technical and cultural progress (19 themes), problems of centralization of the library network and library and bibliographic activities in conditions of a centralized library system (16 themes), the raising of the efficiency of certain processes of library and bibliographic work, scientific

organization of labour, management and standardization in librarianship and bibliography (28 themes), improvement of the library acquisition policy (21 themes), processes of cataloguing, systematization and subject cataloguing (17 themes), bibliographic activities (19 themes), library and bibliographic work with children (29 themes), improvement of the system of library training (8 themes), computerization and mechanization of library and information procedures (31 themes), history of librarianship, publishing and bibliography in the USSR and other countries (16 themes).

In order to intensify the scientific activity of post=graduate students and competitors and augment the sharing of progressive professional experience in the field of research leading centres have begun to regularly organize All=Union theoretical and practical conferences (once every two or three years) and republican conferences (annually) for post=graduate students. Thus the USSR Ministry of Culture has already held four such conferences (in Minsk, Leningrad, Kishinev and Tbilisi) and the RSFSR Ministry of Culture - two: in Leningrad (1979) and Perm (1980). The next All=Union scientific confrerence of post=graduates will be held in Tashkent in October, 1980. Forty to fifty reports dealing with library science and bibliography are delivered by post=graduates and competitors at these conferences.

In recent years attention is focused on the development of specialized post=graduate courses in the leading universities and institutes. Library and bibliographic institutions and higher educational institutions of Union and Automorous republics, Siberia and the Far East can now send their students to study

at post-graduate courses functioning in the Moscow and Leningrad Institute of Culture. Specialized post-graduate courses train research and pedagogical personnel for institutes of culture and library research centres of different regions. Thus, for example, over 80 post-graduates from the Union republics of Middle Asia, the Caucasus, the Ukraine, Byelorussia, the Baltic Republics, Moldavia and the RSFSR study at post-graduate courses of Moscow State Institute of Culture.

The writing of doctoral dissertations in the USSR is the result of the active participation of competitors in research work according to the plans of scientific and educational institutions and libraries. The doctoral dissertation represents the sum total of independent research which makes it possible to formulate and substantiate scientific concepts which can in their aggregate be qualified as a long-range trend in the field of library science and bibliography. The scientific results of this work are, as a rule, published in monographs or other scientific publications, issued by central and republican publishing-houses. Doctoral dissertations are prepared by candidates of science, senior researchers, assistant professors and professors. At library faculties of higher education institutions professors can take up the post of senior researcher for a two-year period in order to work on their doctoral thesis. Researches and professors, who successfully combine productive and pedagogical activities with scientific work, are provided with paid leave (up to six months) for the completion of their doctoral dissertation.

At present in the Soviet Union over 50 employees of libraries and members fo library faculties are working on doctoral

theses dealing with problems of library science and bibliography. The coordination of themes of these dissertations is the responsibility of the State Lenin Library which maintains a special committee which administers the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences in the field "Bibliography and Library Science" and Doctor of Philological Sciences in "Bibliology".

From 1976 to 1980 this committee examined 10 dissertations, six of which dealt with questions of theory and practice of librarianship and bibliography. The Supreme Certifying Commission of the USSR conferred the degree of Doctor of Sciences upon six candidates, including three is the field "Bibliography and Library Science". They are professors of the institutes of culture O.I. Korshunov (Moscow Institute of Culture) and I.V. Gudovshchikova and A.V. Sokolov (Leningrad Institute). The degree of Doctor of Historic Sciences in the field "Bibliography and Library Science" was granted to A.A. Khalafov, a professor of the Azerbaijan University.

All in all, in the USSR the degree of Doctor in the aforementioned branches has been granted to 11 distinguished specialists.

The contemporary level of library development makes ever growing demands of institutions which train library personnel and bibliographers. Much still remains to be done in order that professional training fully meet the requirements of library and bibliographic science and practice. Teaching and research work conducted at library faculties, post-graduate and doctoral courses must be qualitatively improved in order to ensure the education of highly qualified personnel and the augmentation of the scientific potential of library and bibliographic sciences.